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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,494	03/18/2005	Steven J Leverette	SEAH/506US	4386
22031	7590	04/21/2006	EXAMINER	
NICK A NICHOLS P O BOX 16399 SUGARLAND, TX 774966399			MAYO, TARA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,494

Applicant(s)

LEVERETTE ET AL.

Examiner

Tara L. Mayo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/18/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0025229).

Huang et al. '229, as seen best in Figure 1A, show a floating platform comprising:

with regard to claim 1,

temporary buoyancy means (114); and

with regard to claim 2,

wherein said temporary buoyancy means comprises a removable ballast tank (para. 0056).

Huang et al. '229, as recited in claim 34, disclose a method of installing a floating platform comprising the steps of:

with regard to claim 5,

a) providing said platform with removable temporary buoyancy means (TSM's; para. 0056) for maintaining hydrostatic stability of said platform while ballasting down to an installation draft of said platform;

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b) towing said platform to an installation site;
c) ballasting down said platform to the installation draft;
d) connecting said platform to the pre-installed tendons;
e) removing said temporary buoyancy means; and
f) deballasting said platform to develop the tendon pre-tension required to provide stability to said platform; and
with regard to claim 10,

wherein the step of ballasting down to the installation draft is performed without the use of a heavy lift crane vessel to maintain the hydrostatic stability of said floating platform.

3. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Biewer (U.S. Patent No. 3,837,309).

Biewer '309, as best seen in Figure 20, shows a floating platform comprising:
with regard to claim 1,

temporary buoyancy means (226) mounted on radially extending pontoons (222) at distal ends thereof; and

with regard to claim 4,

wherein said temporary buoyancy means are hingedly secured to said pontoons (via elements 228).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 3 and 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0025229 A1) in view of Husvik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,022,174 A).

Huang et al. '229 further teach:

with regard to claim 3,

a dry deck (i.e., the top portion of the ballast tank) on said ballast tank.

Huang et al. '229 disclose all of the steps of the claimed method with the exception(s)

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of :

with regard to claims 3 and 6,

the step of providing winch means on the temporary buoyancy means for developing initial pre-tension in pre-installed tendons for anchoring the platform at the installation site.

Husvik et al. '174, as seen in Figure 2, expressly teach the use of a winch (12) on an offshore platform for developing tension in pre-installed tendons used to anchor the platform (see col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, line 4).

With regard to claims 3 and 6, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device disclosed by Huang et al. '229 such that it would include a winch as taught by Husvik et al. '174. The motivation would have been to provide means for tensioning the tendons.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 7 through 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Mayo whose telephone number is 571-272-6992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tlm
17 April 2006


TARA L. MAYO
PATENT EXAMINER